

This lesson is part of a larger, comprehensive school garden guide called **Minnesota School Gardens: A Guide to Gardening and Plant Science** developed by Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom in 2013. The entire guide is available at www.mda.state.mn.us/maitc.



Grade

High School

Materials/Preparation

- ☐ Handout A – Garden Goals – one per student
- ☐ Handout B – Action Plan – one per student
- ☐ Assessment A – Planning a Garden – one per student
- ☐ Writing utensils
- ☐ Computers (optional)
- ☐ Refer to Chapter One Teacher Information as needed on page 13.

Fun Fact

The World's Longest Carrot, recorded in 2007, was 19 feet 1 7/8 inches (5.839 meters) long.



Garden Goals

Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards

Language Arts	9.9.1.1b	Work with peers to set rules for collegial discussions and decision-making (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views), clear goals and deadlines, and individual roles as needed.
Language Arts	11.9.1.1b	Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed.
Language Arts	9.9.4.4	While respecting intellectual property, present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task (e.g., persuasion, argumentation, debate).
Language Arts	11.9.4.4	While respecting intellectual property, present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks (e.g., persuasion, argumentation, debate).

Summary/Overview

Students take ownership in the school garden by creating goals and planning for success.

Garden Connection

A successful garden requires planning and goal setting.



Background Information

Whether it is a trip, a birthday party, or a garden, the planning stage takes time, can be a lot of fun, and is a necessary step in ensuring success. Dreaming of the many possibilities and selecting favorites can be very exciting. As you plan your school garden, be sure to include the students in as much of the process as possible. The more the students are involved in decisions, the more they feel ownership in the project.

Objectives

- List three goals your school has for the garden.
- Create a garden design.
- Explain why the class selected a specific garden design.
- Make a list of activities and projects related to the garden.

Procedure

Interest Approach

Discuss different types of school gardens. Review the examples of school gardens in Minnesota listed after the Introduction in this guide (pages 6-9). Encourage students to note the differences in size and scope. Start a discussion about what kinds of gardens might work at your school.

Summary of Content and Teaching Strategies

Provide students with a copy of Handout A. Students complete the worksheet as you discuss each area.

Goals

Discuss each of the four key areas and why they are important parts of a school garden: outdoor classroom, student involvement, healthy eating, and community connections. Ask students to write down a goal for each of the four key areas as described in the Chapter One Teacher Information on page 13. When finished, they share their goals with a partner. Next ask pairs to list their goals on the board. As a class, come to a consensus on which goals to adopt.

Design

With the adopted goals in mind, what is the best design for your school garden? Have students brainstorm a list of possible garden designs. Gardens range from growing a few plants indoors near a window to a large in-ground vegetable garden. Help students select a garden design with a size and scope appropriate to your school. If this is the first year your school has had a garden, start small. Your garden can expand over the next several years.

Activities/Projects

Create a list of activities to do in the garden and projects related to the growing of plants. Brainstorm what skills and information students will learn from growing their plants. Examples of activities to be done in the garden include planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting. A project related to growing plants is to research recipes using herbs grown in a classroom window. Or, if you will be growing vegetables in a

large quantity to sell, have students research different methods of selling produce including Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) or farmers' markets.

As a class, develop an action plan to accomplish the goals of the garden. What steps need to be completed in order to get your plants started, maintain plants over the growing period, and harvest the crop? Include timelines and assign a lead person for each task.



If your schedule allows, evaluate the garden at the end of the project. Discuss what students learned from the experience, what went well and what could be improved.

Review/Summary

Discuss the following questions as a class or ask students to journal their responses.

1. Why is it important to create a plan for the garden?
2. What part of the garden are you most excited about?

Modifications/Extensions

Provide students with graph paper to map out the school garden to scale. Be sure they take into account spacing between plants and rows and allow for walkways. Maps should include a legend as well as indicate the scale used.

Sources/Credits

This lesson was developed for the Minnesota Garden Guide.

Name _____



Garden Goals

Brainstorm

Adopted By Class

Garden goals	<p>outdoor classroom</p> <p>student involvement</p> <p>healthy eating</p> <p>community connections</p>	<p>outdoor classroom</p> <p>student involvement</p> <p>healthy eating</p> <p>community connections</p>
Garden design		

Brainstorm

Adopted By Class

Garden activities/projects		
Plants to grow in the garden		

Name _____



Action Plan

Task	Timeline	Lead Person	others Helping

Name _____



Garden Goals

Create a brochure or PowerPoint presentation highlighting the different aspects of the school garden to be shared with administration, teachers, school board members, parents, and community groups. Be sure to include all items listed in the grading rubric.

	Points Possible	Grade
Content		
Goals	10	
Design	10	
Activities/Projects	10	
Appearance		
Pictures	5	
Creative	5	
Well organized	5	
Use of class time	5	
Total	50	

Include a scanned copy of the garden design.